

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A porous fiber containing pores each having a diameter of 100 nm or less, wherein the area ratio of pores each having a diameter of 200 nm or more to the total cross section of the fiber is 1.5% or less, and wherein the pores are unconnected pores.

2. (original) A porous fiber containing pores each having a diameter of 100 nm or less, wherein the area ratio of pores each having a diameter of 200 nm or more to the total cross section of the fiber is 1.5% or less, wherein the pores are connected pores, and wherein the fiber has a strength of 1.0 cN/dtex or more.

3. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the area ratio of pores each having a diameter of 50 nm or more to the total cross section of the fiber is 0.1% or less.

4. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the pores have an average diameter of 5 to 30 nm.

5. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the porous fiber is partially fibrillated to have fibrils each having a diameter of 0.001 to 5 μm .

6. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the porous fiber is crimped.

7. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the porous fiber has a strength of 1.5 cN/dtex or more.

8. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, comprising 80% by weight or more of a polyester or polyamide.

9. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the porous fiber has a ratio of moisture adsorption (ΔMR) of 4% or more.

10. (currently amended) The porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein nanopores are unevenly

distributed at cross section of a fiber, and wherein the area ratio of the nanopores to the total cross section of the fiber is 30% or more.

11. (currently amended) A yarn or cut fiber comprising the porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 or 2 in combination with one or more other fibers.

12. (currently amended) A fibrous article at least partially comprising the porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10 or the yarn or cut fiber according to claim 11~~ claim 1 or 2.

13. (currently amended) A fibrous article comprising the porous fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10 or the yarn or cut fiber according to claim 11~~ claim 1 in combination with one or more other fibers.

14. (currently amended) The fibrous article according to ~~claim 12 or 13~~ claim 12, which is a woven fabric, a knitted fabric or a nonwoven fabric.

15. (currently amended) The fibrous article according to ~~claim~~

~~11 or 12~~ claim 11, which is selected from clothing, products for interior, livingwares and industrial materials.

16. (currently amended) The fibrous article according to ~~any one of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, comprising one or more functional materials.

17. (original) A polymer alloy fiber having an islands-in-sea structure and comprising a lower soluble polymer as a sea part; and a higher soluble polymer as islands parts, the islands constituting a lined structure, wherein the area ratio of islands each having a diameter of 200 nm or more to the total islands is 3% or less.

18. (original) The polymer alloy fiber according to claim 17, wherein the area ratio of islands each having a diameter of 100 nm or more to the total islands is 1% or less.

19. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to ~~claim 17 or 18~~ claim 17, wherein the islands have an average diameter of 1 to 100 nm.

20. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to

~~any one of claims 17 to 19~~ claim 17, wherein the islands have an average diameter of 10 to 50 nm.

21. (original) A polymer alloy fiber comprising two or more polymers having different solubilities, wherein the polymers having different solubilities constitute a layered structure at cross section of a fiber, wherein higher soluble polymer layers have an average thickness of 1 to 100 nm, and wherein a layered structure comprising higher soluble polymer layers having a lined structure at longitudinal section of a fiber occupies 50% or more of the area of a cross section of the fiber.

22. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 21~~ claim 17, wherein the content of the islands-part polymer is 10 to 30% by weight of the total fiber.

23. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 22~~ claim 17, wherein the higher soluble polymer is a polymer easily soluble in an alkaline solution.

24. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 22~~ claim 17, wherein the fiber has an Uster

unevenness of 0.1 to 5%.

25. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 24~~ claim 17, wherein the fiber has an elongation percentage of 70 to 200%.

26. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 25~~ claim 17, wherein the fiber has a CR as an indicator of crimp properties of 20% or more, or the number of crimp is 5 or more per 25 mm.

27. (currently amended) The polymer alloy fiber according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 26~~ claim 17, which is a conjugated fiber comprising a polymer alloy and one or more other fibers.

28. (currently amended) A yarn or a cut fiber comprising the polymer alloy fiber according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 27~~ claim 17 or 21 and one or more other fibers and constituting a combined filament yarn, a blended yarn or a blended cut fiber.

29. (currently amended) A package or a felt, comprising the polymer alloy fiber of ~~any one of claims 17 to 27~~ claim 17 or 21 or

the yarn or cut fiber of claim 28.

30. (currently amended) A fibrous article at least partially comprising the polymer alloy fiber of ~~any one of claims 17 to 27 or the yarn or cut fiber of claim 28~~ claim 17 or 21.

31. (currently amended) A fibrous article comprising the polymer alloy fiber of ~~any one of claims 17 to 27 or the yarn or cut fiber of claim 28~~ claim 17 in combination with one or more other fibers.

32. (currently amended) The fibrous article according to ~~claim 30 or 31~~ claim 30, which is a woven fabric, a knitted fabric or a nonwoven fabric.

33. (original) Pellets of a polymer alloy comprising a polyamide and a polyester, wherein a dispersed polymer component is dispersed in an average diameter of 1 to 50 nm.

34. (original) The pellets according to claim 33, wherein the area ratio of coarse particles of the dispersed polymer component having a diameter in terms of circle of 100 nm or more at cross

section of a pellet is 3% or less of the total dispersed polymer particles at cross section of a pellet.

35. (original) Pellets of a polymer alloy, comprising a polyamide and a polyester, containing 30 to 90% by weight of a polyester copolymerized with 1.5 to 15% by mole of a sulfonate and having an average weight of 2 to 15 mg.

36. (canceled)

37. (original) Pellets of a polymer alloy, comprising a polymer selected from polyamides, polyesters and polyolefins; and a polyetherester being soluble in hot water, wherein the content of the polyetherester is 10 to 30% by weight, and wherein the pellets have a b^* value as an indicator of coloring of 10 or less.

38. (original) A method for melt-spinning a polymer alloy fiber, comprising the steps of weighing and feeding a lower soluble polymer and a higher soluble polymer independently to a twin-screw extrusion-kneader, melting and blending the polymers in the twin-screw extrusion-kneader to form a polymer alloy, and melt-spinning the polymer alloy, wherein the spinning is carried out so as to

satisfy the following conditions (1) to (3):

(1) the content of the higher soluble polymer in the polymer alloy is 5 to 60% by weight;

(2) the ratio in melt viscosity of the lower soluble polymer to the higher soluble polymer is 0.1 to 2; and

(3) the length of a kneading section of the twin-screw extrusion-kneader is 20 to 40% of the effective length of screws.

39. (original) A method for melt-spinning a polymer alloy fiber, comprising the steps of weighing and feeding a lower soluble polymer and a higher soluble polymer independently to a static mixer having a number of splits of 100×10^4 or more, melting and blending the polymers in the static mixer to form a polymer alloy, and melt-spinning the polymer alloy, wherein the spinning is carried out so as to satisfy the following conditions (4) and (5):

(4) the content of the higher soluble polymer in the polymer alloy is 5 to 60% by weight; and

(5) the ratio in melt viscosity of the lower soluble polymer to the higher soluble polymer is 0.1 to 2.

40. (original) A method for melt-spinning a polymer alloy fiber comprising a lower soluble polymer and a higher soluble

polymer, comprising storing and dry-blending two or more different pellets in a blending tank before melting of the pellets, feeding the dry-blended pellets to a melting section, and blending and melt-spinning the dry-blended pellets, wherein the spinning is carried out so as to satisfy the following conditions (6) to (8):

(6) the content of the higher soluble polymer in the fiber is 5 to 60% by weight;

(7) the ratio in melt viscosity of the lower soluble polymer to the higher soluble polymer is 0.1 to 2; and

(8) the blending tank can contain 5 to 20 kg of pellets.

41. (original) The method for melt-spinning a polymer alloy fiber according to any one of claims 38 to 40, wherein the content of the higher soluble polymer in the resulting blend is 10 to 30% by weight.

42 - 47. (canceled)